

Message Text

SECRET

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SU, US
SUBJECT: USG/GOS RELATIONS

1. FOLLOWING PILGRIMAGE HOLIDAYS AND HIS OWN RETURN FROM LATEST TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA AND SOUTH KOREA (SEPT-76), I REVIEWED WITH MINSTATE SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS DR. BAHU IDRIS DEC 16 GENERAL STATUS PENDING USG PROGRAMS. AS WITH FOUNDATION ANY EDIFICE, I SAID MUCH OF CURRENT WORK MIGHT NOT BE VISIBLE LOCALLY, BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT LAY THOROUGH BASIS FOR ON-GOING COOPERATION. SOME RESULTS HAD ALREADY APPEARED IN SUCH AREAS AS MILITARY TRAINING, CONSIDERATION C-130 SALE, PL-480 PROPOSAL AND AFRICAN MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (STATE 303950), AND ADDITIONAL PROGRESS COULD BE EXPECTED.

2. IDRIS'S RESPONSE WAS UPBEAT. GOS/USG RELATIONS WERE GOOD AND GETTING BETTER. NOTING (CORRECTLY) THAT HE HIMSELF HAS BEEN SECRET CHANNEL FOR DEVELOPING CONTACTS WITH SUCH USG FRIENDS AS SAUDI ARABIA AND SOUTH KOREA, HE SAID GROUNDWORK HAD BEEN LAID FOR INCREASING COOPERATION WITH BOTH COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD NOW BE FORMALIZED THROUGH MORE NORMAL CHANNELS. SAUDIS HAD NOT ONLY AGREED TO FUND ANY GOS PROJECT FOR WHICH SUITABLE JUSTIFICATION PREPARED BUT WOULD ALSO BE PROVIDING FUNDS TO HELP GOS OUT OF ITS CURRENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE DIFFICULTIES.

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SAUDIS WERE PUSHING TRILATERAL CONCEPT INVOLVING SAUDI MONEY, SUDANESE LAND OR RELATED INPUT AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE FROM ADVANCED COUNTRIES OF WEST. HE HOPED THIS PATTERN WOULD BE INTENSIFIED. I SAID THIS ALSO OUR HOPE AND NOTED INCREASED INTEREST HERE ON PART FORD, ALLIS-CHALMERS AND GM.

3. IDRIS THEN SAID THERE WAS GREAT DEAL NIMEIRI COULD DO TO "FIGHT COMMUNISM" IN AFRICA BUT USG SUPPORT WAS NECESSARY ANY SUCH EFFORT, EVEN THOUGH THIS COULD BE CHANNELLED THROUGH THIRD COUNTRY. HE HOPED USG WOULD RESPOND SINCE SUDAN DID NOT WISH "FURTHER ANGOLAS". I REPLIED THAT WE HAD ALREADY PLAYED KEY ROLE IN EFFORTS SETTLE RHODESIAN ISSUE PEACEFULLY AND WERE GIVING FULL SUPPORT TO CURRENT GENEVA NEGOTS. BROADER SUPPORT OF THIS EFFORT WAS ALWAYS WELCOME BUT RECENT GOS PRO- NOUNCEMENTS HAD SEEMED FOCUS MORE ON EVENTUAL NEED RESOLVE ISSUE THROUGH FORCE OF ARMS. WHILE GOS MIGHT WELL FEEL IT NEEDED USG SUPPORT IF IT WERE TO PLAY MORE HELPFUL ROLE IN AFRICA, WE ON OUR SIDE WOULD WELCOME GREATER DEGREE OF PUBLIC SUPPORT BY OUR MODERATE FRIENDS SUCH AS SUDAN FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS BY NON-AFRICANS. IDRIS INDICATED AGREEMENT BUT REITERATED INTEREST IN UNPUBLICIZED USG ENCOURAGEMENT FOR ANY INITIATIVES NIMEIRI MIGHT UNDERTAKE.

4. COMMENT: IDRIS'S COMMENTS UNDERSCORE EXTENT TO WHICH GOS BETTING ON CLOSE COOPERATION WITH SAUDIS AND EGYPTIANS TO PROVIDE URGENTLY NEEDED DEVELOPMENT HERE. HIS SOMDVHAT RAMBLING REMARKS RE NIMEIRI'S ABILITY BE HELPFUL TO US IN AFRICA DIXNOT MAKE CLEAR WHAT HE MIGHT HAVE IN MIND, OTHER THAN GREATER DEGREE OF PRIVATE USG SUPPORT. PRESUMABLY HIS APPROACH REFLECTS NPGEIRI'S PENCHANT FOR SEEKING ENHANCED PRESTIGE BY PLAYING CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN AREA DISPUTES, AS WELL AS HIS OWN PREDILEC- TION FOR SIGNIFICANT BEHIND-SCENES ROLE IN SUDANESE POLICY. WHILE IDRIS IS EXTREMELY CLOSE TO NIMEIRI (HE HAS MOVED TO PEOPLE'S PALACE WHERE PRESIDENT SPENDS MORE TIME NOW THAT SEPARATE PRIMIN NAMED), DOUBT DEPT RESPONSE THIS FEELER IS
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REQUIRED. HOWEVER, I WOULD BE GLAD CONVEY ANY COMMENTS WHICH MAY BE APPROPRIATE.
BREWER

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